

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MARCH 5, 2014**

Present: First Selectman Edward G. McAnaney, Joanne Sullivan, Brian Fitzgerald and Timothy Reynolds. Selectman Mel Chafetz was absent. First Selectman McAnaney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes: Selectman Reynolds made a motion to approve the February 19, 2014 minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen as presented. Selectman Fitzgerald requested that the breakdown of fund sources for the Library Handicapped Accessibility Project be listed for the public. The funding package is as follows:

\$100,000 – Town Commitment (2014-15 Budget Year)
200,000 – Historic Restoration Fund
200,000 – Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
300,000 – Library Commission's Endowment Fund
600,000 – Suffield Public Library Foundation
\$1,400,000 Total

Vote 4-0 in favor.

Public Comment: None

Approve the transfer of \$27,000 from Contingency (0195011-50920) to Legal Fees (0141551-50341).

First Selectman McAnaney stated that there are four pieces of unexpected litigation, several enforcement actions and union negotiations which have depleted the Legal Fees budget. He is requesting \$27,000 based on the rate of usage of the budget to date. Selectman Sullivan made a motion to approve the transfer of \$27,000 from Contingency to Legal Fees. Vote 4-0 in favor.

Discussion regarding exiting the Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority (CCSWA). Possible vote to authorize exit from CCSWA and to send the issue to Town Meeting.

Selectman Fitzgerald detailed the Town's involvement with Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority (CCSWA). He noted that CRRA was our agent to take care of trash but a number of towns were not happy with their services. The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) formed CCSWA to provide a long term solid waste management solution. Mr. Fitzgerald said the Town joined CCSWA (in 2010) and benefited from it. He said it has fulfilled its mission but we don't need it anymore. First Selectman McAnaney noted that there is a cost associated with CCSWA membership (\$3327.81 this year). First Selectman McAnaney said that the Town entered membership

through a Town Meeting (8/17/10) and we'll need to exit through that method as well. Selectman Reynolds made a motion to withdraw from Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority (CCSWA) and move the matter to the Town Meeting. Selectman Fitzgerald added that the withdrawal is due to their mission being complete for our Town. Vote 4-0 in favor.

Approve Small Cities Grant Application for Suffield Housing Authority.

Economic Development Director Patrick McMahon prepared a memo to discuss this agenda item. First Selectman McAnaney presented the information.

The Suffield Housing Authority is seeking assistance to make modernization improvements to its public senior housing complex on Bridge Street. The Town has the opportunity to apply for grant funds through the Connecticut Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program to assist with these improvements. The application deadline is April 7, 2014. We are seeking authorization to submit a grant application to the State of Connecticut for \$800,000.

The Suffield Housing Authority operates 70 units of senior/disabled housing at Laurel Court, Maple Court and Broder Place. The properties were developed in three phases in 1967, 1971 and 1988. A Comprehensive Capital Needs Assessment was conducted by Recap Real Estate Advisors on behalf of the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority in May 2013. The aggregate capital needs are \$3.3 million over the next twenty years. Only two of the units are handicapped accessible and so there is a need for additional handicapped accessible units. Immediate capital improvements needs include roof replacements, driveway repairs, door replacements and kitchen and bathroom upgrades. Oak Park Architects is completing drawings for these improvements.

Selectman Fitzgerald said he is in favor of the grant but would like to see the evaluation to see if we should repair the units or perhaps consider building new ones. He noted that during the October Snowstorm residents had to be moved since they didn't have backup generators. He also mentioned that the units have electric heat which may not be practical going forward.

Selectman Reynolds made a motion to approve the resolution as proposed in the memorandum dated March 4th (listed below). Vote 4-0 in favor.

Moved and voted that the Board of Selectmen adopt the following resolutions regarding application to the Connecticut Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program for funding for improvement to the public senior housing operated by the Suffield Housing Authority; and that the First Selectman is hereby authorized to enter into and execute such documents necessary for the grant.

WHEREAS, Federal monies are available under the Connecticut Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program, administered by the State of Connecticut, Department of Housing pursuant to Public Law 93-383, as amended; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 127c, and Part VI of Chapter 130 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner of Housing is authorized to disburse such Federal monies to local municipalities; and,

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Suffield make application to the State for \$800,000 in order to undertake a Small Cities Community Development Program and to execute an Assistance Agreement therefore, should one be offered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for State Assistance imposed by Part VI of Chapter 130 of The Connecticut General Statutes; and,
2. That the filing of an application by the Town of Suffield in an amount not to exceed \$800,000 is hereby approved, and that the First Selectman is hereby authorized and directed to file such Application with the Commissioner of the Department of Housing, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required by the Commissioner, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an Agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, rescissions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Suffield.

Discussion regarding Town Budget

The First Selectman provided the Selectmen with revenue and departmental budget summaries. Mr. McAnaney highlighted departmental budgets with higher dollar increases. A lengthy discussion followed. It was decided to schedule a Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen for Friday, March 14th at 10:00 a.m. for final approval and vote on the budget.

Discussion regarding Annual Bulky Waste Pickup

Selectman Fitzgerald proposed re-instituting the Bulky Waste pickup. He believes it is a service for the Town residents without a large vehicle. Mr. Fitzgerald noted that the Town wide pick-up was hard to manage but wants to reward residents for their recycling efforts.

The current process was detailed along with information provided by USA Hauling for their possible involvement. It was agreed to publicize the current process better on the Town Website and in an article in the Suffield Observer to ensure that residents knew of its existence.

Call of Town Meeting for March 20th

A draft Legal Notice was presented and the following notice was agreed upon. Selectman Reynolds moved the four items to Town Meeting on Thursday, March 20th at 7:00 p.m. at Suffield Middle School. Vote 4-0 in favor.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING TOWN OF SUFFIELD

Notice is hereby given that a Special Town Meeting of the inhabitants of the Town of Suffield, Connecticut qualified to vote in Town Meeting, will be held in the auditorium at the Suffield Middle School, 350 Mountain Road on **Thursday March 20th at 7:00 p.m.** for the following purpose to wit:

1. To authorize the expenditure of funds for the Library Handicapped Accessibility Project subject to the receipt of gifts and grant in the amount of \$1,300,000.
2. To authorize the withdrawal of membership from the Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority (CCSWA).

Dated at Suffield, CT, this 5th day of March 2014.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN-TOWN OF SUFFIELD

Edward G. McAnaney, First Selectman
Timothy Reynolds, Selectman
Joanne Sullivan, Selectman
Mel Chafetz, Selectman
Brian Fitzgerald, Selectman

Selectmen's Update

Results of Town Meeting on February 27, 2014

The ordinances for Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) Pretreatment and the Exemption of Real and Personal Property Acquired by Certain Tax-Exempt Institutions both passed. They will become effective on March 20, 2014 as they were posted in the Journal Inquirer today.

Three roads were accepted, namely Sutula Road, LaFountain Road and Lise Circle.

The \$200,000 Historic Restoration Fund grant from the State Historic Preservation Office was accepted.

Large Animal Facility/Fire Pump

Mr. McAnaney stated that the Large Animal Facility is awaiting roof repair. The new Fire Pump project contractor has identified workmanship issues that are being addressed along with planned work.

Home Energy Solutions Letter

The Home Energy Solutions letter was sent out to households around February 21st. We have received calls to make sure the letter is legitimate along with some complaints about the print quality of the letter. Northeast Utilities plans to send the letter again at a better quality and will include a brochure detailing the program.

Receipt of Energize CT Bright Idea Grant of \$10,000

The Town has earned its first Bright Idea Grant through the Clean Energy Communities Program. The \$10,000 grant can be used toward an energy-saving project.

Accept Changes to draft 2012-13 Annual Report

The First Selectman solicited any changes the Selectmen suggested for the 2012-13 Annual Report.

The next Bridge Street School Forum is scheduled for Thursday, March 13, 2014 at Suffield Middle School at 7:00 p.m.

Selectman Fitzgerald made a motion to amend the Agenda to add an Executive Session for the purpose of Union Negotiation update. Vote 4-0 in favor.

Selectman Reynolds moved that the board enter Executive Session to discuss Union Negotiations. Vote 4-0 in favor.

Executive Session convened at 8:21 p.m. and ended at 9:00 p.m. There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

The next Selectmen's Meeting will be Wednesday, March 19, 2014.

Lisa Trase
Recording Secretary

